

1 CLAIM LISTING

2 1-14 Canceled

3 15. (Currently Amended) A riding stirrup suspended from a western equestrian saddle, the
4 riding stirrup comprising:

- 5 (a) a hanger rod ~~adapted to be received in stirrup leathers for suspending the stirrup~~
6 ~~from a western equestrian saddle;~~
- 7 (b) a stirrup loop connected to the hanger rod at both ends of the hanger rod and
8 defining a stirrup opening;
- 9 (c) an elongated base support tread at a bottom portion of the stirrup loop and spaced
10 apart from the hanger rod, the elongated base support tread having [[a]] an upper
11 surface with a longitudinal center axis extending at a slant with respect to a stirrup
12 centerline, the stirrup centerline extending substantially perpendicular to the
13 hanger rod, substantially through a mid point of the hanger rod, and through the
14 upper surface of the elongated base support tread being approximately centered on
15 the stirrup centerline; and
- 16 (d) wherein the upper surface of the elongated base support tread is slanted with
17 respect to the hanger rod such that the shortest distance between an inner tread
18 end of the elongated base support tread and the longitudinal axis of the hanger rod
19 is less than the shortest distance between an outer tread end of the elongated base
20 support tread and the longitudinal axis of the hanger rod, and such that the upper
21 surface of the elongated base support member slopes downwardly away from a
22 position of a horse under the saddle.

1 16. (Currently Amended) The riding stirrup according to Claim 15 wherein:

- 2 (a) ~~[[an]]~~ the upper surface of the elongated base support tread defines an inner angle
- 3 with the stirrup centerline at an inward side of the stirrup centerline;
- 4 (b) the upper surface of the elongated base support tread defines an outer angle with
- 5 the stirrup centerline at an outward side of the stirrup centerline; and
- 6 (c) the inner angle is less than the outer angle.

7

8 17. (Previously Presented) The riding stirrup according to claim 16 wherein the outer angle

9 comprises an obtuse angle and the inner angle comprises an acute angle.

10

11 18. (Previously Presented) The riding stirrup according to claim 17 wherein the upper surface

12 of the elongated base support tread is substantially planar.

13

14 19. (Currently Amended) The riding stirrup according to Claim 15 further including:

- 15 (a) an interior side member connected to the hanger rod; and
- 16 (b) an exterior side member connected to the hanger rod, the exterior side member
- 17 being longer than the interior side member; and
- 18 (c) wherein a lower portion of the interior side member diverges from a lower portion
- 19 of the exterior side member along the stirrup centerline in the direction from the
- 20 hanger rod to the elongated base support tread.

21

22 20. Canceled

1 21. (New) The riding stirrup according to claim 15 wherein the upper surface of the elongated
2 base support tread extends substantially parallel to a lower surface of the elongated base
3 support tread.

4
5 22. (New) A western equestrian saddle including:

6 (a) a first stirrup including,

7 (i) a first hanger rod received in first stirrup leathers depending from the
8 saddle, a first stirrup centerline extending substantially perpendicular to
9 the first hanger rod through a mid point of the first hanger rod,

10 (ii) a first stirrup loop connected to the first hanger rod at both ends of the first
11 hanger rod and defining a first stirrup opening,

12 (iii) a first elongated base support tread at a bottom portion of the first stirrup
13 loop and spaced apart from the first hanger rod, the first elongated base
14 support tread having an upper surface that is approximately centered on
15 the first stirrup centerline, and is slanted with respect to the first stirrup
16 centerline such that the shortest distance between an inner tread end of the
17 first elongated base support tread and the longitudinal axis of the first
18 hanger rod is less than the shortest distance between an outer tread end of
19 the first elongated base support tread and the longitudinal axis of the first
20 hanger rod;
21

1 (b) a second stirrup including,

2 (i) a second hanger rod received in second stirrup leathers depending from the
3 saddle, a second stirrup centerline extending substantially perpendicular to
4 the second hanger rod through a mid point of the second hanger rod,

5 (ii) a second stirrup loop connected to the second hanger rod at both ends of
6 the second hanger rod and defining a second stirrup opening,

7 (iii) a second elongated base support tread at a bottom portion of the second
8 stirrup loop and spaced apart from the second hanger rod, the second
9 elongated base support tread having an upper surface that is approximately
10 centered on the second stirrup centerline, and is slanted with respect to the
11 second stirrup centerline such that the shortest distance between an inner
12 tread end of the second elongated base support tread and the longitudinal
13 axis of the second hanger rod is less than the shortest distance between an
14 outer tread end of the first elongated base support tread and the
15 longitudinal axis of the second hanger rod; and

16 (c) wherein the upper surface of the first elongated base support tread and the upper
17 surface of the second elongated base support both face outwardly away from each
18 other when the first and second stirrups are each in a respective operating
19 position.

1 23. (New) The saddle of claim 22 wherein:

- 2 (a) the upper surface of the first elongated base support tread extends substantially
3 parallel to a lower surface of the first elongated base support tread; and
4 (b) the upper surface of the second elongated base support tread extends substantially
5 parallel to a lower surface of the first elongated base support tread.
6

7 24. (New) The saddle of claim 22 wherein:

- 8 (a) the first stirrup loop includes an interior side member extending between the first
9 hanger rod and the first elongated base support tread and an exterior side member
10 extending between the first hanger rod and the first elongated base support tread,
11 the interior side member of the first stirrup loop being shorter than the exterior
12 side member of the first stirrup loop; and
13 (b) the second stirrup loop includes an interior side member extending between the
14 second hanger rod and the second elongated base support tread and an exterior
15 side member extending between the second hanger rod and the second elongated
16 base support tread, the interior side member of the second stirrup loop being
17 shorter than the exterior side member of the second stirrup loop.
18

19 25. (New) A method for providing a support surface for a rider's foot in connection with the
20 use of a western equestrian saddle, the method including:

- 1 (a) suspending a hanger rod from the saddle at a first lateral side of the saddle, a
2 stirrup centerline extending substantially perpendicular to the hanger rod through
3 a mid point of the hanger rod;
4 (b) supporting a stirrup loop from the hanger rod, the stirrup loop having a support
5 surface defined therein, the support surface being slanted with respect to the
6 stirrup centerline so that the support surface faces away from the saddle when the
7 stirrup loop is in an operating position, and wherein the support surface is
8 approximately centered on the stirrup centerline.
9
10

11 26. (New) The method of claim 25 wherein supporting the stirrup loop includes supporting
12 an elongated base support tread which forms a bottom portion of the stirrup loop and
13 wherein the support surface comprises an upper surface of the elongated base support
14 tread.
15

16 27. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein supporting the stirrup loop includes supporting
17 an interior side of the stirrup loop and an exterior side of the stirrup loop, the interior side
18 of the stirrup loop and exterior side of the stirrup loop each extending from the hanger rod
19 to a respective end of the elongated base support tread, and wherein the interior side of
20 the stirrup loop is shorter than the exterior side of the stirrup loop and faces toward the
21 saddle when the stirrup loop is in the operating position.
22

1 28. (New) A stirrup suspended from a western equestrian saddle, the stirrup comprising:
2 (a) a hanger rod suspended from the saddle at a first lateral side of the saddle;
3 (b) a stirrup loop connected to the hanger rod, the stirrup loop including a base
4 support tread spaced apart from the hanger rod, an interior side extending from the
5 hanger rod to a first end of the base support tread, and an exterior side extending
6 from the hanger rod to a second end of the base support tread, the interior side
7 being shorter than the exterior side so that an upper surface the base support tread
8 is slanted with respect to the hanger rod, and the interior side being positioned so
9 that the upper surface of the base support tread faces away from the saddle.

10
11 29. (New) The stirrup of claim 28 wherein the base support tread includes a lower surface
12 that extends substantially parallel to the upper surface of the base support tread.